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BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Sacramento, CA

April 6, 2011

BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stan Dixon, Chairman
Pam Giacomini
Jim Ostrowski
Gary Nakamura
Bruce Saito
Mark Andre

BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS ABSENT:

BOARD STAFF:

George Gentry, Executive Officer
Eric Huff, Executive Officer, Forester's Licensing
Chris Zimny, Regulations Coordinator
Linda Cano, Executive Assistant

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:

Ken Pimlott, Director (acting)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dixon called the April 6, 2011 meeting of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to order.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Actions Items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

04-11-01 Member Giacomini moved to approve the March 2011 minutes. Member Saito seconded the motion. Members voted in favor of the motion, with one abstention (Ostrowski).

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Chair and Executive Officer met with Director Pimlott, Chair Mary Nichols, Air Resources Board, Executive Officer and Chairman of the North Coast Regional Water Board. They also met with Resources Agency Secretary Laird.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – Ken Pimlott

- Supports the Board's decision to restructure how Board committees meet.
- There has been little change on the budget; Governor Brown will seek a November ballot initiative for tax extensions.
- Budget hearings will continue in May regarding budget change proposals, primarily capitol outlay funding for projects, E Fund to Base budget, particularly with the Aviation Program.
- Cal Fire will focus on preparation for fire season. The department received a hiring freeze exemption for Fire Protection classifications.
- Initial fire season forecast with exception for a few areas calls for fairly normal fuel conditions.
- Wildfire Awareness Week kick-off will be held May 2, 2011 at the Davis Mobile Equipment facility.
- Will be submitting an updated executive order to Secretary Laird. It will identify key items relative to mutual aid and the department's ability to get contracts in place.
- There will be six unit chief vacancies, three in the Northern region and three in the Southern region. The region chiefs are actively interviewing candidates to fill those positions.
- The names for the Soquel Demonstration State Forest Advisory Committee have been submitted to Secretary Laird.
- Continuing work on streamlining the THP process. Kelly Dreesmann has been assigned Staff Chief for Northern Region he will coordinate with the Southern Region to come up with solutions to efficiently process the THP backlog.
- Working with staff to put together a key contacts list so that information can be shared between the department, legislature and their constituents. An aggressive interaction has been developed, doing 20-30 minute meet and greets with the legislature to educate them and share information about Cal Fire and the Board of Forestry and how they may relate to their district.

Public Comment

Jason Warshawer, refer to letter submitted regarding THP delays in Redding.

REPORT OF THE REGULATIONS COORDINATOR-CHRIS ZIMNY

Potential laws that will require full regulatory review and potential elimination of regulations that are out dated, redundant or not appropriate. SB 366 is bill that has major senior legislative backing and if it comes into place will have to go through a full regulatory review process.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Forest Service is advertising its new planning rule; the plan is to put more responsibility down through the chain of command. A workshop will be held April 14, 9:00 – 12:00 in the Secretary's office. All state agencies are invited. Executive Officer has had several meetings with Director Pimlott. It was determined that the THP review process will be a priority. Met with North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board to discuss their concerns on the NPDES situation. This has a potential to cause more issues in the future, the Board will need to stay on top of it.

The final touches are being made on a process manual for the Board. It will include parliamentary procedures that the Board should follow. The Board will be able to use this manual as a reference for information on how Board meetings are to be conducted.

Forest Practice – Mark Andre

No Action Items

Policy - Jim Ostrowski

No Action Items

Management – Gary Nakamura

No Action Items

Resource Protection - Pam Giacomini

No Action Items

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF) – Mark Stanley

Refer to COMTF report.

RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RMAC) Eric Huff

04-11-02 Member Giacomini moved to accept the nomination of Bill Burrows to RMAC. Member Nakamura seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

MONITORING STUDY GROUP (MSG) George Gentry

Executive Officer Gentry announced MSG is on hiatus. The plan is to meet twice in 2011. Consideration is being made to meld efforts with VTAC.

PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS EXAMINING COMMITTEE – Eric Huff

The Examining Committee anticipates having their annual report by May. Chairman Ferrier will deliver the report. Extension of THP's has become an issue for licensing due to licensing complaints against RPF's who have attempted to get harvesting plans extended. This may cause further implications in the future now that planned proponents are looking at a two year northern spotted owl survey protocol which would take a year from the harvesting plans.

There are 28 – 31 applicants for the April 15, RPF exam, which will be held in Riverside, Redding, Rocklin and Arcadia.

Next PFEC meeting will be June 17.

Public Hearing: Forest Legacy Program Procedures, 2011. Possible Action Item: Adoption of the proposed regulation.

Chris Zimny gave the overview.

04-11-03 Member Nakamura moved to close public hearing. Member Ostrowski seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

04-11-04 Member Giacomini moved to adopt Forest Legacy Program Procedures, 2011 with certain edits. Member Saito seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Public Comment

Comment S1-1 Pete Ribar Campbell Timber Management

Supports adoption of regulations for the forest legacy program. Need to delete the definition of heritage trees. The term is being unnecessarily used in the rules because there is other similar terminology. For example in section, 1572 uses a similar term, "ecological old-growth forests". In addition, the application on page 2 and other published legacy documents refer to "ecological community connectivity" and late successional forest values. These terms are more related to criteria listed in the statute and can replace the term heritage trees. Further the Director has discretion to establish project priorities, as stated in section 1573.3, and could address old-growth, late seral or heritage trees if desired. This further makes the term unnecessary. We need to use consistent terminology addressing "forests" and not in individual trees.

Comment S2-1 Paul Mason

Supports the rule and encourages the Board to adopt it. There are no critical flaws in the regulation and could use both terms because they could have different meanings. The regulation is not looking to take away people's heritage trees. Reminds the Board the program is voluntary and there are many terms used to rank project priority. Does not think inclusion of terms related to heritage trees or forest characteristics are critical or in any great conflict.

Comment S2-2 Paul Mason

It is important to adopt the regulations in order to move forward with proposed conservation easement projects that are helping families address some intergenerational issues. It would be a shame if a minor wording conflict got in the way with moving forward with important conservation easement projects that address important financial issues to landowners.

Comment S3-1 Mark Loveless, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Supports the rule and wants to move forward to get a project through in Humboldt County.

Public Forum

Eric Carlson, Associated California Loggers

spoke on SB 366. Commented that besides what legislators are proposing regarding the state budget, of tax extensions or cutting state agencies they should look at ways to stimulate a business friendly economy. Sierra Cascade dialogue was formed to get business, government and environmentalists together to discuss issues they may have in common and possibly develop policy to resolve them. The next Sierra Cascade meeting, "Economic Sustainability and Community Vitality" will be held June 4, in West Point.

Richard Geinger

would like to see a clearing house where stakeholders can go for consistent information. Mentioned AB 380, referred to the last section regarding reordering of information. GIS, personnel in Santa Rosa have made a step in that direction so that you can plan watershed and get the 10 year harvest plan history. He sees this as a way of cost savings and a way to eliminate duplication. VTAC is at the heart of getting non-duplicative by the stakeholders.

Bill Keye, CLFA

CLFA has come up with an idea of trying to push to clean up the Forest Practice Act of outdated information. AB1414 has been taken up by the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, as a committee bill. The bill was designed to bring clarity to the Forest Practice Act and to be non controversial. The NCWQCB voted to roll back a portion of the 2009 North Coast Waver regarding NTMP's for one year. FLC will have their annual meeting at Blue Lake Casino; he encouraged the Board to attend.

Mike Tadlock, Campbell Timberland Management

Fire Prevention Day will be held in June. He mentioned that he would like to see Cal Fire present to provide information and asked the Board to encourage Cal Fire to attend the event.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Executive Officer Gentry will be speaking at the Forestland Owners meeting April 9.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman adjourned the April 6, 2011 meeting of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,



George D. Gentry
Executive Officer

ATTEST:



Stan Dixon
Chairman

Copies of the attendance sheets can be obtained from the Board Office.